



Animal Rights Activists Dump Hundreds of Dead Ducks at Victorian Premier's Office

# **Duck hunting season to go ahead despite scathing Game Management Authority report**

Genevieve Alison, Herald Sun  
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**DUCK** hunting season will go ahead this month despite a scathing report which revealed the sport's governing agency has failed to properly enforce hunting laws.

A leaked report commissioned by Game Management Authority found noncompliance by shooters during the season was "widespread", as reported by the ABC.

The damning review by Pegasus Economics also found the GMA was too focused on managing animal rights' protesters than policing shooters.

The report was ordered after last year's hunting season came under fire when hundreds of protected species of birds were killed.

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Agricultural minister Jaala Pulford said the actions of some shooters were “unacceptable”.

“The vast majority of hunters do the right thing, but last year there was a minority of hunters whose actions were unacceptable,” she said.

Ms Pulford said the GMA had failed as a regulator during last season and the structure of the agency would be reviewed.



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The report was ordered after last year's hunting season was plagued with controversy. Picture Yuri Kouzmin

“We’ve taken significant steps to boost our compliance capacity this year and have introduced new regulations to make it easier for officers to detect hunters doing the wrong thing,” Ms Pulford said.

“Surge capacity from Victoria Police, DELWP, DEDJTR, and Parks Victoria is crucial. And these resources have been boosted for the 2018 season,” she said.

The GMA board has accepted every recommendation in the report except one.

“That recommendation goes to the structure of the regulator and is being considered by the government,” Ms Pulford said.

This year’s season is expected to commence on March 17 with several new regulations to come into effect on opening weekend.

These include a later start time to improve visibility for both shooters and enforcement officers to detect unlawful behaviour and requiring hunters to recover every duck they shoot.

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